

The Sun.

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It is our friends who favor us with manuscripts for publication who have helped us to secure the best material in all cases and to keep it pure.

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The United States has joined England in remonstrating with the Haytian Government for shooting Generals and suspects without trial in an effort to put down a periodical "revolution." The diplomatic intervention reminds us that when General ANTOINE SIMON assumed the Presidency with the sanction of an intimidated Congress on December 17, 1908, he promised an orderly administration, public improvements, economy, justice in the courts, and many reforms that had been denied the people by the venerable NORD ALEXIS. The Simon revolution took the usual course, a descent upon Port-au-Prince with a retinue of Generals in second hand uniforms, reinforced by a volunteer soldiery without uniforms and a throng of camp followers. President NORD ALEXIS followed precedents in defending his administration; that is to say, early executions of its opponents, before or just after sunrise, were the rule. The victims were military men, politicians, lawyers, journalists, and merchants.

We therefore appeal to his Excellency JOHN A. DIX to use his powers and privileges to bring an end to the present intolerable situation in the Legislature, which virtually amounts to subversion of representative government.

If such a commonplace thing as a deadlock in a legislative body "amounts to subversion of representative government," what would be the effect on representative government of calling in the Executive department to club or coax the legislators into action?

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WAR NOW SCIENTIFIC.

Let Americans Still Fervently Believe Numbers Would Prevail.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN:—A great many Americans labor under the impression that this country is immune from war, that we are either isolated from zones of military interest or that the world fears us. Neither proposition is correct. We are entangled in zones of military interest, and no nation of the first order fears us in the slightest degree.

We are involved in Asiatic politics, with possessions that command the China Sea and the tide of European commerce as it ebbs and flows between the East and the West. We hold the key to trans-Pacific trade because at Hawaii the ocean roads meet and cross. We are spending \$500,000,000 to sever the two continents of the Western Hemisphere, and with the completion of the Panama Canal problems for the future of the Pacific will be in the hands of the statesman who will be in the future, to grow in magnitude and complexity as South and Central American countries increase in commercial and political importance.

Any thoughtful man ought to understand that the conditions among nations for the trade of the Latin republics south of us, and as that trade grows in magnitude, thus rendering competition more acute, international differences will from time to time occur. In the face of these considerations, any statesman who advocates that this country should think of the neutralization of the Panama Canal, situated as it is in the very political storm center of this hemisphere, but strange to say there is a large element opposing canal defense upon the ground of economy. We boast of the nation's wealth and its resources, pride and self-respect in behalf of dollars, while the world looks on amused. The flood tide of absurdity is reached when millions are appropriated to pull snags from the rivers, where the pull is difficult to procure, while the regular army at its best, while money is denied for defense of the greatest naval and military strategic enterprise of the century.

There is no prophet who can look forward to the future and predict the eventual destiny of the Panama Canal. It is no time for puerile sentimentalism; it is a time to finish off a great work as befits the Iron Men who wrought it. The Panama Canal is the fruit of our diplomacy, of our power, of our industry, and the world ought to be given to understand that we hold it for the common commercial use of nations and for the military use of the United States of America.

Generally declared that we are not a military people, we are not in the sense that the service is compulsory or particularly popular. There is little swagger about our soldiers, and it is small affair. There is scant mention of the army in current song and story, and 38 per cent. of the population are ignorant of the military affairs of the country. The army is not popular for the simple reason that in a country where every peasant vender expects to become a captain of industry men naturally shy of entering ranks where the probability of becoming a corporal or sergeant is almost certain. From the European standpoint, we are not a military people and yet have figured very extensively in our history. We have done considerable fighting in a blundering, expensive and foolhardy way, winning success only at the cost of enormous expenditure of men and money, with good luck figuring in some cases to a remarkable degree.

But the day of haphazard war is done. No more can we succeed with the tools of yesterday, and armed mobs are things of the past. Other nations are making bulwarks of our made dollars, and organizing armies while we organize trusts.

The half century just passed over has witnessed the most astonishing development in all lines of human endeavor since the dawn of civilization. The military affairs of the world have been revolutionized. Modern methods of communication and transportation enable events to move with great rapidity. It took Napoleon many weeks to parley with the Czar, whereas their whole discussion could now be carried on in a few hours. It required twenty-six days for Napoleon to send Junot from Bayonne to Salamanca, and now the trip could be made in forty-eight hours. Scott, fought in Mexico with a musket effective at 200 yards, one shot a minute, if the enemy was not within 100 yards, the modern rifle effective at 2,000 yards, twenty shots a minute. At the beginning of the civil war we used brass cannon with a range of 300 yards, and now the modern field gun is deadly at one mile. At Shiloh Johnson's army of 40,000 men, while at Chattanooga Jackson passed unseen along the flank of the whole Eleventh Corps, maneuvers which today would be entirely out of the question because aeroplanes and wireless telegraph would report every movement within the theatre of operations.

In every department of military affairs the arts and sciences have been employed to perfect the tools of war. The huge machine built up by most countries are well trained and ready for emergency use. Among the great nations the United States alone refuses to consider a trained army necessary. There seems to be an impression abroad in the land that when an invader will be driven away. Such an attitude invites disaster.

The professional soldier cannot understand how a merchant could brandish his yardstick and command an army, any more than a lawyer could follow the blacksmith's hammer to smelt a log properly. The average American believes that any man could command an army. When his son is taken ill he insists that the physician treat him by electricity, and yet when his own son is taken ill he goes to the doctor. In these days of war and popular sentiment, demand that doctors, lawyers, dentists, undertakers and sometimes barbers be called upon to fight for the protection of the public, but when comes the nation's call to entrust its fortunes and the lives of its citizens to men utterly without training in the complex professional duties they are permitted to assume. The volunteer idea, based upon an erroneous notion of economy, but vicious in warp and woof. It brings into existence an unwieldy, inefficient makeshift, entailing an expense which the country is loath to appreciate only after it is mustered out, a fact which the \$4,500,000 paid out in volunteer pensions most forcibly attests.

It does not require profound study to ascertain why the civil war lasted for over four years. It has long since been admitted that had the Federal Government been able to mobilize 50,000 trained troops in April, 1861, the war would have ended that summer. But such was not the case, and Lincoln was forced to call for volunteers offered by butchers, bakers and candlestick makers who fought not for a noble purpose until everybody from the General down learned something of the trade of war.

Following the civil war, with its record of blunders and tremendous expense, one would suppose that an army of respectable size, equipped and ready for use, would have been maintained. On the contrary the army was reduced, neglected and scattered about the country in small detachments, aggregating about as many men as the combined police of New York and Chicago. Nobody thought an army necessary, and certainly it had few friends at court, because for thirty years following the rebellion Congress was full of gallant old veterans who believed that in the event of trouble it was necessary to whistle up the farmers, arm them with muskets and march forth to victory.

And then came the war with Spain. Over 200,000 volunteers were called out. Congressmen, editors and others possessing the leisure of a party council were sent to the front, converted into Generals, while the turned out the cows, locked up the barn, grabbed a gun and became a soldier. Emergency contracts were let for clothing at robbery prices; arsenals were ransacked for obsolete arms, ancient equipment

was dragged forth, the leather bearing the hoar frost and the brass the verdigris of decay; black powder was used—something long since dispensed with among the nations of the world; railroads became congested; entire trainloads of supplies were lost; troops almost starved with food and shelter; because their officers knew nothing of the ration and its use, men died like flies of preventable contagion because of ignorance concerning the rudiments of camp sanitation; everything was confusion, expense, delay, disaster and waste. For one nation we were at war with a decadent nation which had been in process of dissolution for 200 years.

But what are the conditions now? Could we successfully engage a world power? A few years ago Rudyard Kipling said: "The big fat republic is as unprotected as a little child, and that statement epitomizes a serious array of facts."

This nation boasts over 90,000,000 in population; it is large and prosperous, and its commerce reaches to all parts of the world; it has possessions in the Caribbean and in the Pacific, and it has a large and powerful navy. It claims to be a world power. What are its visible means of military support?

Leaving out of consideration the coast artillery and auxiliary noncombatants, the authorized strength of the army—the mobile army, or that part capable of being taken out and used in time of war, was on July 20 of this year as follows:

Infantry 25,251
Cavalry 12,775
Artillery 5,220
Total 43,246

Of these about half were outside the limits of the United States, for over 200,000 of the United States army are stationed in Alaska, Hawaii and Porto Rico, and the rest were scattered throughout the United States, with no regard for economy of maintenance or rapidity of assembly. With great effort it might be possible to mobilize 200,000 men of the regular army at a considerable cost in this country in two weeks. Twenty thousand men to protect the greatest and richest nation in the world and its 90,000,000 people! Five Japanese steamships of the liner class could land more men on our shores in four days than the United States could not stop at even twenty ships!

The War Department would like to maintain 100,000 of the mobile army within the United States at all times, in order that at least six infantry divisions with the necessary cavalry, artillery and engineers could be quickly mobilized in the event of war. Wars of the future will come suddenly, because means of preliminary negotiations are rapid. The telegraph over land and sea replaces the post horse of Napoleon's day, and the future of the world will be decided in a few hours. The war of the future will be swift and furious and very brief. The best trained, best equipped army, the one fully prepared beforehand, will win, and the number of dollars behind it will not count. So it is that we should have a better equipped army, one that is ready to move at a moment's notice, to meet the enemy in the first line in war, to meet the enemy in the first line in war, to meet the enemy in the first line in war.

These advocates of militarism ignore entirely the enemy's resources. They show us our great natural resources and the spontaneity with which the patriotism of our people would be aroused in the event of an assault of any kind from any foreign foe.

That is the American idea in a nutshell. We prefer to wait until we are cornered, then assemble an armed mob to languish in camps of instruction while learning to cook, learning to stand in line and march, learning to load a gun, learning that the bayonet belongs on the muzzle of the piece and not in the hands of the soldier, learning to march to the front and then round up a portion of our polyglot population and start in to learn the rudiments of arms while a frenzied Government ransacks the four corners of the globe for munitions of war.

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"Our great natural resources," show the statesman. What does he mean? Money? He means money or what it represents, but in a country without trained soldiers, without a store of war material, of what consequence is money? Its only use is to indemnify the enemy, the consummation of an ignominious peace.

The spontaneity with which the patriotism of our people would be aroused in the event of an assault of any kind from any foreign foe," says the statesman in his declaration of war. It is a splendid word, but it is a word which is used to the consummation of an ignominious peace.

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